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Veterinary Students Express Concerns About Economic Future

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swine producers on the best methods of controlling the disease and reducing its effect on the swine industry. **V**

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Veterinary Students Express Concerns About Economic Future

"Managing Your Economic Future in Veterinary Medicine," the April 1996 financial symposium sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association met the expectations of those who attended. Another symposium dealing with this subject would be beneficial according to the participants.

Three major categories, veterinary medical education, career concerns and professional perspectives were divided into 12 subsets of activities and addressed by individual speakers. Each attendee attended breakout sessions to select the 5 issues of highest priority and suggest solutions.

Participants ranked the sessions dealing with "education costs," "companion animal medicine," "debt management" and "curriculum dynamics" as the most valuable.

Student reactions ranged from expressing frustration that "veterinarians think that we are taking loans for more money than we

really need and having a great, fancy life" to "there are many misconceptions in and between current students and practitioners as to the scope of the problem. The economic future is a complex problem as viewed by different segments of the profession with their own priorities and values."

"The problem is large and complex, however, there is a willingness to resolve and correct the issue," said one attendee.

"There is a great dichotomy between veterinary students' perspective and that of the profession. In my discussions with students, they came for immediate solutions while veterinarians philosophized. There is an excellent 'window of opportunity' to bring the students aboard," said one participant.

The proceedings for the economic symposium are published in the July 15, 1996 issue of the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*. **V**